

God's Commandments

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 129,
the Family + Faith page.

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the Ten Commandments as God's laws that teach us how to love him and others
- Relate the Great Commandment, which sums up all of God's laws, to our lives
- Recognize that Jesus told The Parable of the Good Samaritan to help us understand that loving God means loving our neighbor
- Relate the New Commandment, to love as Jesus loves, to live our lives

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus summed up God's Commandments in one word, and that word is love. For Jesus, faithfulness to all God's Commandments could be shown in love of God and love of neighbor. Loving God and others is challenging. Exhaustion and ambivalence can cause us to steer off course and fail to love with all our heart. Help your family turn to God for guidance to stay focused on this Commandment. He is love and his love is your strength as you journey together with your family to the Kingdom.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Loving God
- God's Good Rules

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 121,
God's Commandments

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God gives us rules that help us to live as Jesus lived.

Say: Let's listen to what Jesus said about following God's rules.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus gives us rules about how to live each day as he did. We need rules or there would be no order. Jesus’ rules help us to stay safe and guide us to be loving toward our neighbors.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s life and love and how he shared them with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 122,
The Ten Commandments

Read aloud the opening question and the paragraph.

Explain that God gave people laws called the Ten Commandments. These laws help people to know right from wrong and to make good choices.

Have your child put a finger on the highlighted word **Ten Commandments**. Read the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 123.

Read aloud the commandments and discuss with your child how to live them.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The Ten Commandments are recorded in the Book of Exodus. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as a sign of his love and friendship. Scripture tells us that Moses received the Commandments on two stone tablets when he was talking to God on top of a mountain. This is a dramatic and classic story from Scripture. Find a children’s illustrated Bible or storybook that tells this story and share it with your child.*

Turn to Page 123,
Jesus Commands

Have your child silently read the first paragraph. Explain that Jesus taught one Commandment that sums up all of the Commandments.



Proclaim the Scripture passage that tells how Jesus wanted the disciples to show love for God and others.

Turn to page 317 of the Our Catholic Tradition section to reinforce the importance of God’s laws.

Read the word **Great Commandment**, and its definition, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read the second paragraph aloud.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 124,
The New Commandment

Explain that Jesus liked to tell stories called parables because they taught people how to love God and others.

Read aloud the opening question and first paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Find the word **parable** and read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Discuss how Jesus helped people understand his teachings with parables.

Turn to Page 125,
Parable of the Good Samaritan
(cont'd)

Read the paragraph and find the word **New Commandment**. Read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 124.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 126,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the question and introductory paragraph. Invite your child to name some people who would be your neighbors according to Jesus' definition.

Review the chart together, reading the Great Commandment and the New Commandment.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 127,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you can help and donate to those in need.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: Discussion of love of neighbor might seem to contradict what your child has learned about talking to strangers. Explain that he or she can be a neighbor to people their own age—perhaps by being kind on the playground. Remind your child to never put themselves at risk by helping someone else. Assure them that God first desires their safety and well being.

Turn to Page 129,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.